AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A bi-directional broadband communication system suitable for exchanging audiovisual content information between remote locations, comprising:

a first interactive audio-visual appliance at a first location, wherein the first interactive audio-visual appliance comprises a television set top box capable of receiving audio-visual entertainment content and translating the audio-visual entertainment content to a format suitable for use by a television set;

one or more collection elements operably coupled to the first interactive audio-visual appliance and suitable for collecting one or more physiological data; ~~and~~

a second interactive audio-visual appliance at a second location;

wherein during a remote communication mode of operation of the first interactive audio-visual appliance a user can select to transmit via a bi-directional broadband transmission media to the second interactive audio-visual appliance the one or more physiological data collected by the one or more collection elements; and

wherein during an entertainment mode of operation of the first interactive audio-visual appliance, the user can select to receive audio-visual entertainment content, and wherein in this entertainment mode the audio-visual entertainment content is translated by the first interactive audio-visual appliance to the format suitable for use by the television set.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the bi-directional broadband transmission media coupling the first and second interactive audio-visual appliances comprises the Internet.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein in response to receiving the one or more physiological data transmitted by the first interactive audio-visual appliance during a ~~during the~~ second mode of operation, a second user of the second interactive audio-visual appliance can

select to transmit audio-visual information from the second interactive audio-visual appliance to the first interactive audio-visual appliance via the bi-directional broadband transmission media.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the remote communication mode of operation is entered in response to the user of the first interactive audio-visual appliance selectively activating a mode selection element of the first interactive audio-visual appliance.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said system further comprises:

one or more databases, coupled to the second interactive audio-visual appliance, to which the one or more physiological data transmitted to the second interactive audio-visual appliance is stored.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more physiological data is merged with an electronic medical record in the one or more databases.

8. (Currently Amended) A bi-directional broadband communication system suitable for exchanging audiovisual content information between remote locations, comprising:

a first interactive audio-visual appliance at a first location having a first mode of operation, a second mode of operation, and a mode selection element for allowing a user of the first interactive audio-visual appliance to selectively enter the first and second modes of operation;

wherein the first interactive audio-visual appliance comprises a television set top box capable of receiving audio-visual entertainment content and translating the audio-visual entertainment content to a format suitable for use by a television set;

one or more collection elements operably coupled to the first interactive audio-visual appliance and suitable for collecting one or more physiological data;

a content server coupled to the first interactive audio-visual appliance and having access to a content database; and

a second interactive audio-visual appliance at a second location;

wherein during the first mode of operation a user of the first interactive audio-visual appliance can receive audio-visual content information selected by the user and received from the content database of the content server; and

wherein during the first mode of operation of the first interactive audio-visual appliance, the audio-visual entertainment content is translated by the first interactive audio-visual appliance to the format suitable for use by the television set;

wherein during the second mode of operation the user of the interactive audio-visual appliance can select to transmit via a bi-directional broadband transmission media to the second interactive audio-visual appliance the one or more physiological data collected by the one or more collection elements.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein the bi-directional broadband transmission media coupling the first and second interactive audio-visual appliances comprises the Internet.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein in response to receiving the one or more physiological data transmitted by the first interactive audio-visual appliance during the second mode of operation, a second user of the second interactive audio-visual appliance can select to transmit audio-visual information to the first interactive audio-visual appliance via the bi-directional broadband transmission media.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein said system further comprises:

one or more databases, coupled to the second interactive audio-visual appliance, to which the one or more physiological data transmitted to the second interactive audio-visual appliance is stored.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the one or more physiological data is merged with an electronic medical record in the one or more databases.

14. (Currently Amended) An interactive audio-visual appliance, comprising:

a control element;

a television receiver that receives television signals received over a bi-directional broadband transmission media and demodulates the received television signals;

a decoder that decodes the demodulated television signals and converts the demodulated television signals into audio/visual signals suitable for display on a television display;

an interface element controlled by the control element by which a user of the interactive audio-visual appliance selectively controls operation of the interactive audiovisual appliance during a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation of the interactive audio-visual appliance;

a mode selection element controlled by the control element for allowing a user of the interactive audio-visual appliance to selectively enter the first and second modes of operation;

a plurality of ports controlled by the control element and suitable for accepting one or more physiological data collected by a plurality of corresponding probes coupled to the plurality of ports;

a demodulator for demodulating data signals received over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;

a modulator that receives data from plurality of ports and modulates the data for transmission over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;

wherein during the first mode of operation the user of the interactive audio-visual appliance can receive audiovisual entertainment content selected by the user and received from a content server, the audiovisual entertainment content being received by the television receiver and decoded by the decoder;

wherein during the second mode of operation the user of the interactive audio-visual appliance can select to transmit via a bi-directional broadband transmission media to a second

interactive audio-visual appliance the one or more physiological data presented to the plurality of ~~ports;~~ ports.

15. (Currently Amended) The appliance of claim 14, ~~wherein~~ wherein the interface element is a control panel operable to receive selection inputs to the interactive audio-visual appliance.

16. (Currently Amended) The appliance of claim 14, ~~wherein~~ wherein the interactive audio-visual appliance is a set-top box.

17. (Original) The appliance of claim 14, wherein the bi-directional broadband transmission media comprises the Internet.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The appliance of claim 14, wherein in response to receiving the one or more physiological data transmitted by the interactive audio-visual appliance during the second mode of operation, a second user of a second interactive audio-visual appliance can select to transmit audio-visual information to the interactive audio-visual appliance via the bi-directional transmission media.

20. (Original) A method for transmitting physiological content between remote locations, comprising:

collecting one or more physiological data;

providing the one or more physiological data to a first interactive audio-visual appliance at a first location during a remote communication mode of the first interactive audio-visual appliance;

transmitting the one or more physiological data from the first interactive audio-visual appliance to a second interactive audio-visual appliance at a second location during the remote

communication mode of the first interactive audio-visual appliance via a bi-directional broadband transmission medium.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

during a normal mode of operation of the first interactive audio-visual appliance, the first interactive audio-visual appliance receiving audiovisual content information selected by a user of the first interactive audio-visual appliance from a content server.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein in response to receiving the one or more physiological data transmitted by the first interactive audio-visual appliance during a ~~during the~~ second mode of operation, a second user of the second interactive audio-visual appliance transmitting audio-visual information to the first interactive audio-visual appliance via the bi-directional broadband transmission media.

23. (New) A multi-functional television set top box, comprising:

a user interface that permits a user to control operation of the multi-functional set top box, wherein the user can establish operation of the television set top box in a plurality of operational modes;

a television receiver that receives television signals received over a bi-directional broadband transmission media and demodulates the received television signals;

a decoder that decodes the demodulated television signals and converts the demodulated television signals into audio/visual signals suitable for display on a television display;

a demodulator for demodulating data signals received over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;

at least one data probe interface port suitable for receiving physiological data from at least one data probe coupled to the data probe interface port;

a modulator that receives data probe data from the data probe interface and modulates the data probe data for transmission over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;

wherein during a first mode of operation, the television set top box operates to receive audio/visual entertainment content from a remote entertainment services provider via a bi-directional broadband transmission media, and generates audio/visual signals as an output thereof suitable for play on the television set;

wherein during a second mode of operation the television set top box operates to transmit via the bi-directional broadband transmission media the one or more physiological data presented to the plurality of ports;

wherein during the second mode of operation, the television set top box further operates to transmit video conference data via the bi-directional broadband transmission media, and to receive video conference data via the bi-directional broadband transmission media for display on a display.

24. (New) The multi-functional television set top box according to claim 23, wherein the display comprises an integral display.

25. (New) A multi-functional television receiver device, comprising:

a user interface that permits a user to control operation of the television receiver device, wherein the user can establish operation of the television receiver device in a plurality of operational modes;

a television tuner that receives television signals received over a bi-directional broadband transmission media and demodulates the received television signals;

a decoder that decodes the demodulated television signals and converts the demodulated television signals into audio and video signals;

a television display that receives the video signals and displays the video corresponding to such video signals;

a television audio system that receives the audio signals and reproduces audio therefrom;

a demodulator for demodulating data signals received over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;

at least one data probe interface port suitable for receiving physiological data from at least one data probe coupled to the data probe interface port;

a modulator that receives data probe data from the data probe interface and modulates the data probe data for transmission over the bi-directional broadband transmission medium;

wherein during a first mode of operation, the television receiver device operates to receive audio/visual entertainment content from a remote entertainment services provider via a bi-directional broadband transmission media, and generates audio information played on the television audio system and video information displayed on the television display;

wherein during a second mode of operation the television receiver device operates to transmit via the bi-directional broadband transmission media the one or more physiological data presented to the plurality of ports;

wherein during the second mode of operation, the television receiver device further operates to transmit video conference data via the bi-directional broadband transmission media, and to receive video conference data including audio and video information via the bi-directional broadband transmission media, and plays the audio information on the television audio system and displays the video information on the television display.